

Commission on Aging

Minutes of the December 12, 2011 Meeting

Present: Sam Gordon, April Holinko, Bev Korba, Laurie McMorrow, Don Nolan, Carol Pellegrine, Emile Poirier, Joan Quarto, Jan Scottron, Joan Terry, Cindy Dainton (staff), Kevin Grunwald (staff),
Regrets: Will Bigl

The meeting was called to order by A. Holinko,

The following corrections were made to the minutes of the November meeting.. C. Pellegrine should be listed as having regretted. Correspondence should read: A. Holinko read an invitation from the Town Manager's office announcing a workshop to be held on December 1st that will explain our responsibilities regarding the Freedom of Information Act. A motion to approve the minutes as corrected was made by J. Scottron, seconded by J. Quarto. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business –Carol Fineout, who is a Mansfield Representative on the McSweeney Board of Directors, plans to attend our January meeting to update us on the future of the Regional Center.

Health Care Services – B. Lavoie had a last minute client and was unable to attend our meeting. She has been busy consulting with persons looking for advice regarding Medicare changes.

Senior Center – C. Dainton circulated copies of her report on senior center activities. Space is at a premium and it is difficult to find rooms for all the activities she would like to schedule. She said that 30% of participants are from outside Mansfield. She is keeping a close watch on the McSweeney plans as they could have an impact on the Mansfield Center.

Senior Center Association –President M. Gerling was unable to attend the meeting. It was reported that the bazaar, held last Saturday, was a success but a final count of profits was not available.

Housing Communities – B. Korba mentioned that the population at Glen Ridge has shown a need for added services in recent months and she hopes to invite B. Lavoie to present a program soon. E. Poirier reported on a wonderful party held at Jensen's that was held to celebrate Christmas with eleven children from Mansfield.

Town Advisory Committees – K. Grunwald told us that the Committee on the Needs of Persons with Disabilities still needs additional members. He would be happy to receive names of potential members.

Triad – No report.

Old Business – K. Grunwald will present the pictures of the proposed Senior Center sign to the Association meeting this week to ask for their approval.

The Eagleville Ladies Auxiliary plans to donate \$1,000 to the emergency heating assistance fund.

The goals of our Commission were reviewed and discussed. At our next meeting, we will look at the Mansfield Strategic Plan as it relates to senior needs and see if it needs any changes. K. Grunwald will send a letter to the appropriate committee (Transportation Advisory?) asking them to consider a shelter at the bus stop near the Community Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m. on a motion by C. Pellegrine, seconded by J. Quarto.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Terry, Secretary

Next Meeting – Our next Commission meeting will be held at Juniper Hill in the Four Seasons Room on January 9th at 9:30 a.m.

Proposed Goals for the
Commission on Aging, 2011-2012

1. Continue to ensure that the needs of seniors are represented in the Town's strategic planning initiative.
2. Promote the development of a new Senior Center as a future initiative for the Town Council to consider.
3. Monitor Mansfield's Long-Range Plan for Seniors, with a continued focus on priority issues of senior safety, information dissemination, senior center space needs and health care needs including changing federal benefits programs.
4. Continue to advocate for the installation of a bus shelter at the Route 275/Community Center bus stop.